

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method for auctioning risk associated with a financial transaction, the method comprising:

entering data descriptive of a risk relating to a financial transaction into a risk auction host computer;

presenting the data on a communications network;

receiving a bid to assume a portion of the risk as part of a risk transaction into the host computer, wherein the bid is based on a yield required;

ensuring compliance of a the risk transaction with a set of ~~applicable~~ risk auction rules and procedures applicable to a relevant category of risk transactions; and

allocating the portion of the risk to a bidder submitting an acceptable bid for compliant transactions.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the financial transaction relates to a credit derivatives market.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the financial transaction relates to a medium term or long term guarantee.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the financial transaction relates to a medium term insurance.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data is presented on a website via the Internet.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the communications network comprises the Internet.
7. (Cancel)
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, additionally comprising the step of basing bids upon a maximum notional amount.
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, additionally comprising the step of designating bidders as qualified counterparties according to a predetermined set of criteria.
10. (Currently amended) A computer communications system for auctioning risk associated with a financial transaction, the system comprising:
  - a computer communications server accessible with a network access device via a communications network; and
  - executable software stored on the server and executable on demand via the network access device, the software operative with the server to:
    - enter data descriptive of a risk relating to a financial transaction into a risk auction host computer;
    - present the data on a communications network;
    - receive a bid to assume a portion of the risk as part of a risk transaction into the host computer, wherein the bid is based on a yield required;
    - ensure compliance of a the risk transaction with a set of ~~applicable~~ risk auction rules and procedures applicable to a relevant category of risk transactions; and
    - allocate the portion of the risk to a bidder submitting an acceptable bid for compliant transactions.

11. (Currently amended) Computer executable program code residing on a computer-readable medium, the program code comprising instructions for causing the computer to:

enter data descriptive of a risk relating to a financial transaction into a risk auction host computer,

present the data on a communications network;

receive a bid to assume a portion of the risk as part of a risk transaction into the host computer, wherein the bid is based on a yield required;

ensure compliance of a the risk transaction with a set of ~~applicable~~ risk auction rules and procedures applicable to a relevant category of risk transactions; and

allocate the portion of the risk to a bidder submitting an acceptable bid for compliant transactions.

12. (Currently amended) A computer data signal embodied in a digital data stream comprising data including details of risk relating to a financial transaction, wherein the computer data signal is generated by a method comprising the steps of:

entering data descriptive of a risk relating to a financial transaction into a risk auction host computer;

presenting the data on a communications network;

receiving a bid to assume a portion of the risk as part of a risk transaction into the host computer, wherein the bid is based on a yield required;

ensuring compliance of a the risk transaction with a set of ~~applicable~~ risk auction rules and procedures applicable to a relevant category of risk transactions; and

allocating the portion of the risk to a bidder submitting an acceptable bid for compliant transactions.

13. (New) A processor-implemented method for auctioning risk, comprising:

receiving data into a risk auction host computer, wherein the data is descriptive of an underlying risk relating to a financial transaction selected from the group consisting of a credit derivatives market, a medium term or long term guarantee, and a medium term insurance;

presenting the data and a set of risk transaction terms on a website via the internet;

receiving a bid from an auction participant to assume a portion of the underlying risk as part of a risk transaction into the host computer, wherein the bid is based on a yield required;

receiving a set of auction participant qualification data descriptive of an auction participant's financial characteristics;

comparing the set of auction participant qualification data to a set of qualification requirements, the qualification requirements establishing a minimum baseline of financial strength required of the auction participant; and

for qualified auction participants:

ensuring compliance of the risk transaction with a set of risk auction rules and procedures applicable to a relevant category of risk transactions; and

allocating the portion of the underlying risk to the auction participant submitting an acceptable bid for compliant transactions at such time that the underlying risk and the risk transaction terms are established.

14. (New) The method of claim 13, wherein the bid is based on a spread to a designated benchmark as of a date at which an exposure fee is payable for assuming the underlying risk, and wherein a seller of the underlying risk bears market price risk for a period between assumption of the underlying risk and payment of the exposure fee.